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SARAH WHITLEY BAILIFF
Senior General Attorney

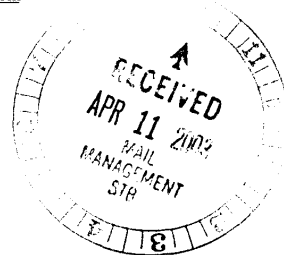
**The Burlington Northern and
Santa Fe Railway Company**

2500 Lou Menk Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76131-2828
(817) 352-2354 - Telephone
(817) 352-2397 - Fax
Sarah.Bailiff@BNSF.com

VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL

April 10, 2003

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001



Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 400X); The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company ("BNSF") Abandonment between Franklin and Red Cloud, Nebraska

Dear Secretary Williams:

Please refer to Condition #2 of the Environmental Assessment served on March 10, 2003 and the corresponding section 106 condition imposed by the Board in its decision in the referenced docket served April 3, 2003. By letter dated March 12, 2003, BNSF submitted an archaeological report to the Nebraska State Historical Society ("SHPO") with a copy to the SEA. Enclosed is a copy of SHPO's response to BNSF regarding its review of the archaeological report. Accordingly, the SHPO has expressed its concurrence with the report and its findings. SHPO has specifically pointed out that so long as archaeological site 25FR62 is not impinged upon through collateral activities associated with the abandonment procedure, it is SHPO's opinion that the abandonment and salvage of the line will have no adverse effect on site 25FR62.

We have confirmed with the archaeological consultant that site 25FR62 is technically not within BNSF's right-of-way ownership. Regardless of its location, abandonment and salvage will not disrupt the site and our contractors will be instructed accordingly. Thus, BNSF requests that the Section 106 condition of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, be removed.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (817) 352-2354 or Sarah.Bailiff@BNSF.com.

Sincerely,

Sarah Whitley Bailiff

SWB/js

Enclosure

cc: Richard Batie
Terry Steinacher (SHPO)
Robert Puschendorf (SHPO)
Victoria Rutson (STB, SEA)
David Navecky (STB, SEA)

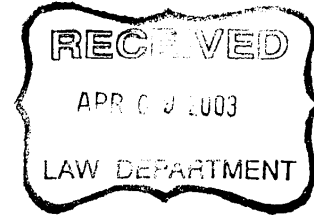
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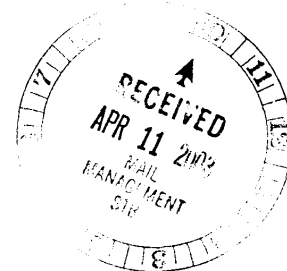
NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1500 R STREET, P.O. BOX 82554, LINCOLN, NE 68501-2554
(402) 471-3270 Fax: (402) 471-3100 1-800-833-6747 www.nebraskahistory.org



24 March 2003

Sarah Whitley Bailiff
BNSF
2500 Lou Menk Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76131-2828

Re: BNSF Abandonment
Franklin and Red Cloud, NE
AB-6(Sub-No. 400X)
Webster and Franklin Cos.
H.P. #0209-118-01



Dear Ms. Bailiff:

We have received and reviewed the archaeological report (Bozell 2003) on the proposed abandonment between Franklin and Red Cloud, Nebraska. We concur that archaeological sites 25FR35, 25FR36, and 25FR40 are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. We also agree that archaeological site 25FR62 is eligible for the National Register. If the area of 25FR62 is not impinged upon through collateral activities associated with the abandonment procedure, it is our opinion that the abandonment and salvage of the line will have no adverse effect on site 25FR62.

Sincerely,

Concurrence:

Terry Steinacher
H.P. Archaeologist

L. Robert Puschendorf
Deputy NeSHPO